

From: james@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 6:31pm
Subject: Microsfot Settlement

I think the proposed settlement is disgusting from a consumer standpoint. It does nothing to improve the climate of competition in the Operating System/software sector, nor does it contain any substantive penalty for past anticompetitive activity on the part of Microsoft.

Microsoft's contention that the status quo allows for improved innovation is patently absurd on its face , and I think actually this proposed solution will have a continuingly negative effect on improvement in the software field. MicroSoft through its "embrace and extend" policies does not innovate it takes innovation from competitors, and extends the functionality's with proprietary additions which block any effective counter to its extensions. Due to dominance in the market, secondary to exclusionary marketing practices rather than true innovation Microsoft has effectively prevented useful, timely and economical improvements in the market.

Microsoft has in the past and continues in the present to attempt to block any competitive innovations. They have perverted standards to their own benefit, and refused to allow others to write software which will work well with the Windows OS. They provide crippled renditions of proprietary software included with their operating system in attempt to drive competitors from the marketplace.

Microsoft have made it virtually impossible to purchase a consumer grade computer with any operating system other than windows. My own personal experience has required me to spend over two thousand dollars during the past 5 years for software that I have never used, and will not use in the future. By requiring that peripheral companies to only develop drivers for the Windows OS I am prevented from using many pieces of hardware that would make my computers more functional.

I think the proposed solution should be dismissed out of hand. It does nothing to protect consumers and the computer industry in general from the monopolistic practices of Microsoft. It contains no real penalty for MS and encourages continued anticompetitive practices on Microsoft's part.

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Jim

James Mellema, CRNA

If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquillity of
servitude than the animating contest of freedom - go from us
in peace. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May

your chains sit lightly upon you. - Samuel Adams